

NEW SHELLFISH HARVESTING AREA CLOSED IN THE BELLAMY RIVER November 2008

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department announce a change in the waters available for molluscan shellfish harvest in the Bellamy River, Dover. All waters north of Clements Point are now classified as Prohibited for harvest, and will remain closed until further notice due to unpredictably high bacteria levels.

In October 2008, DES's ongoing seawater monitoring program detected a possible change in the sanitary quality of the Bellamy River in Dover. The tidal section of the river north of Clements Point is exhibiting intermittently high bacteria levels. These bacteria levels are not associated with rainfall-related pollution, and they exceed water quality thresholds set forth in state statute and the National Shellfish Sanitation Program. Until the nature of these unpredictably high bacteria levels are more clearly understood, a shellfish harvest closure is necessary to protect public health.

The Royalls Cove area of the Bellamy River near the Route 4/Scammel bridge will remain open for harvest, subject to the same conditions that have been in effect for several years:

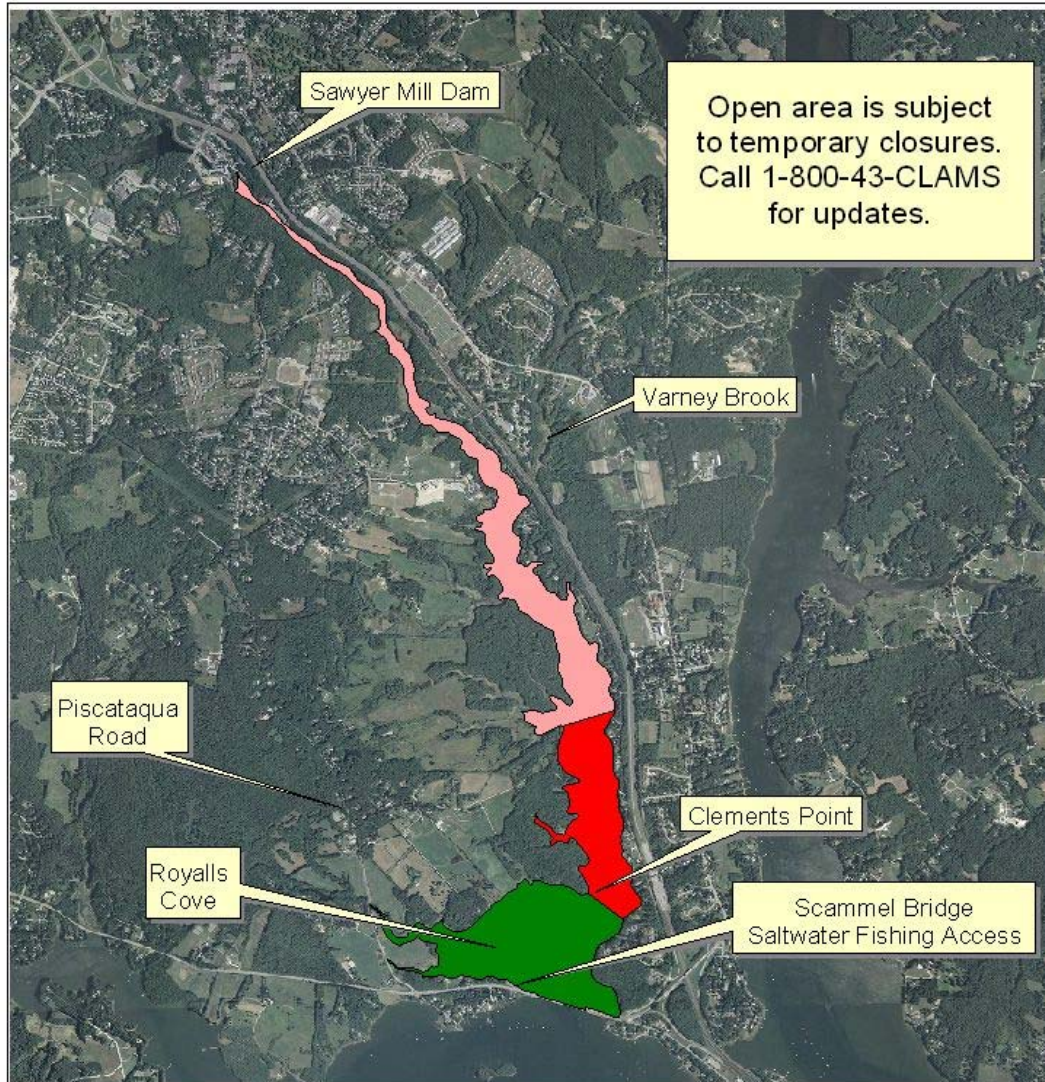
- A seasonal closure for the harvest of all species will be implemented for the months of June, July and August.
- Temporary closures will be implemented following rainfall events of one inch or more. Areas will be reopened following collection of water and shellfish samples with sufficiently low bacterial concentrations.
- Minimum 21-day closures following significant discharges of improperly treated sewage from the Durham and/or Dover wastewater treatment facilities, including discharges from sewage collection infrastructure such as pump stations and sewer lines. Discharges from other wastewater facilities may also warrant closure.

DES has initiated augmented sampling and pollution source evaluation efforts to help better understand the reasons for the intermittently high bacteria levels, and to identify actions that will eventually result in more areas suitable for shellfish harvest. The augmented sampling and evaluation will continue into spring 2009, and possibly longer.

The following map is intended to assist harvesters in recognizing the closed area boundaries. Harvesters are reminded that the status of all shellfish harvesting areas is updated each Friday afternoon, and more frequently as needed, during the harvesting season on the Clam Hotline at 1-800-43-CLAMS. For further information, please call the DES Shellfish Program at (603) 559-1509, or visit the Shellfish Program website: <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/shellfish/index.htm>.



Bellamy River Shellfish Harvest Area



Bellamy River
Continued Closure
New Closure
Open

2000 0 2000 4000 Feet



Map Created October 2008